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VINITA, IND. TER., MARCH 9, 1904.

### NO EVIDENCE OF WHITEWASH.

The much-talked-of Bonaparte report on Indian Territory conditions and government officials, recently given to the public, is one of the sanest utterances on this important topic ever presented. The conditions here are peculiar, and not easily understood by the uninitiated, but Mr. Bonaparte has gone directly and frankly at the core of the subject in a remarkably concise, and, withal, correct presentation. Mr. Brosius had, however, preceded him, making a somewhat more thorough examination of the subject, and Bonaparte had the benefit of this investigation. There are many indications that the report is really based on the Brosius findings, and that full credence has been given the representative of the Indian Rights association.

Bonaparte has a remarkably clear conception of the matter he was detailed to investigate, and there is evidence of a mutual understanding between himself and the president of the United States. The storm of abuse that greeted Brosius will hardly be hurled at Bonaparte. The administration would doubtless resent such action were it attempted.

The whole matter in its last analysis amounts to simply this: There is much to complain of in the administration of tribal matters by the commission to the five tribes. There are abuses that must cease. The term "graft" has been applied to members of the Dawes commission, and the responsibility securely fixed upon at least three of its members, and the fourth is as technically guilty as the others. The revelation comes at a time when it will do good. Newspapers that suggested these abuses before this investigation were accused of being "yellow," and every attempt that was made to break up these nefarious practices was considered as impertinent meddling.

But this is only the result of a very meager investigation of one department in this territory. All the indiscretions are not confined to the Interior department. The Interior department has had longer sway, but the Department of Justice, in many instances, has harbored officials, and is still harboring them, in this territory who ought, in all fairness, to be discharged. It is not creditable to the government to place and keep such men in office as some who are now in high position in this and the other districts.

Those who declare there are no grafters in the Indian Territory can't prove it by Bonaparte.

It now begins to appear why Tams Bixby stayed in Washington so long; he was waiting to take his medicine.

Whether Col. Douglas has been exonerated or not is one of the puzzles of the year—in the "How-old-is-Ann" class. Anyway, nothing has been said about reinstating him.

The citizens of South McAlester have presented Captain Hackett, whom the president recently fired from the marshal's office of the Central district, with a watch. There are several officials who have not been fired who need "watching," also.

In recommending the abolishment of the Dawes commission and leaving the enrollment work to the citizenship court, Mr. Bonaparte forgets that there is no citizenship court in the Cherokee nation. The commission itself is the best citizenship court.

The Bonaparte report, with the short message of the president transmitting the same to congress, is a distinct rebuke to the Dawes commission and other federal officials who have been lured into trying to make a little money out of the Indians on the side by lending their names and influence to the trust companies.

## Scissored and Otherwise

### What For?

Some of the toasts, in fact most of the mat the Kansas day banquet this year were extremely uninteresting, says the Wellington News. While one of the young orators was going through his paces some one in the back part of the house shouted "louder." W. I. Wood, a Kansas City, Kas., wag, turned around and, with a scowl on his face, asked, "Why?" Justice Smith of the supreme court, said that reminded him of a young lawyer in Atchison who left his office one day and put a card on the door: "Will be back soon." When he returned he found this printed on the sign: "What for?"

### Was An Efficient Clerk, But--

One section of the Bonaparte report says: "We find that Mr. Douglas was an efficient clerk, and that there is no ground whatever to question in anywise his personal integrity or official fidelity." The above sounds very nice, and is, of course, gratifying to the person named, and his friends, but it does not explain the treatment to which he was subjected when, in June last, he was summarily dismissed from the government service by a telegram from Washington, like a petty larceny thief, without any reason being assigned or any opportunity given him to be heard. The report is alright as far as it goes on this point, but it does not go far enough. —Muskogee Phoenix.

### Roosevelt's Message.

The president has transmitted to congress a report of Charles J. Bonaparte and Clinton Rogers Woodruff in the matter of irregularities in the Indian Territory. The president says:

"I call special attention to the condition of affairs in the Indian Territory as therein set forth. In accordance with the recommendations of Messrs. Bonaparte and Woodruff the members of the commission to the five civilized tribes have been informed that if they are to continue in the service they must cease all connection with business operations of any kind in the Indian Territory, where it is possible that their official positions could have any effect upon their private business, even though no such effect be in fact shown. What further action, if any, is to be taken in regard to the commission or any of its members by the executive will be determined upon after full consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, and careful consideration of all the facts in the case. It will be noted that the Secretary of the Interior does not believe it would be possible, in accordance with the suggestions of Messrs. Bonaparte and Woodruff, to close up the work of the commission this year, and discontinue it accordingly. If it should be found to be possible, I would regard this as desirable, and call the attention of the congress to the matter."

### An Indian Fable.

The Indians have a way of illustrating almost everything with a story as to how it happened. If a white man be permitted to put on his verbal moccasins and steal along the Indian line of thought, he might recite a fable on "How the Bear Lost His Tail."

It was not such a long time ago that the Big Bear reared up on his hind legs and peeped through a crack in a stone wall and seeing a tree called Manchuria on the other side of the wall he perceived that it was loaded with honey. He measured the crack and saw that he might manage to squeeze his body through, and clambered up. There was a Little Brown Man playing around the stone fence, and he had made the crack in the wall expecting to help himself to that self same honey. He discovered the Big Bear crawling through the crack he had made, and called to him lustily, but the Big Bear was hungry and hurried to get through the crack, while the Little Brown Man ran with all his speed to try to prevent him. He arrived just as the Big Bear's handsome tail started through the crack, and unloosing a big stone, it fell on the Big Bear's tail and crushed it off close to his body. The Big Bear was enraged, but he could not catch the Little Brown Man, who ran to the tree and took all the honey while the Big Bear was left to nurse his wrath and his sore stub of a tail—and the Big Bear has had no tail ever since. —Denison Herald.

Henry P. Robbins has resigned his position as editor of the South McAlester News.

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